

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An external cover covering an attaching section which is provided in a main unit of a first device to fit a second device to the main unit of the first device,

the external cover, when the second device is not fitted to the main unit of the first device, serving a first function as a cover for the attaching section,

the external cover, when the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, serving a second function which is different from the first function while maintaining the first function, such that the external cover is provided to the first device or the second device in a state different from a state when the second device is not fitted to the main unit of the first device.

2. (Original) The external cover according to claim 1, wherein:

one of the first device and the second device is provided with object determination means which determines whether or not there exists any object at a predetermined position,

prior to fitting the second device to the main unit of the first device, the external cover is detached from the attaching section, and

while the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, the external cover exists at the position thus determined by the object determination means, and is attached to an device which is not provided with the object determination means of the first device and the second device.

3. (Original) The external cover according to claim 2, wherein:

the object determination means is an actuator, and

the second function is a function as a shock-absorbing member with respect to the actuator.

4. (Original) The external cover according to claim 1, including a plurality of surfaces,

wherein:

when the external cover is attached to the first device, a function of the external cover is changed between the first function and the second function depending on which surface of the plurality of surfaces is exposed to outside of the first device.

5. (Original) The external cover according to claim 4, wherein:

while the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, a transporting target can be delivered between the main unit of the first device and the second device, and

a surface of the external cover exposed to outside of the main unit of the first device serves the second function by guiding the transporting target to be transported.

6. (Original) The external cover according to claim 5, wherein:

the second device has a guide member which guides the transporting target to be transported, and

when the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, the guide member and a surface of the external cover exposed to outside of the first device overlap each other.

7. (Original) The external cover according to claim 1, wherein:

the second function is a function associated with the second device.

8. (Original) An image forming device including: an attaching section for fitting other device thereto; and an external cover covering the attaching section,

wherein:

when the other device is not fitted to the image forming device, the external cover serves a first function as a cover for the attaching section, and

when the other device is fitted to the image forming device, the external cover serves a second function which is different from the first function while maintaining the first function, such that the external cover is provided to the image forming device or the other device in a state different from a state when the other device is not fitted to the image forming device.

9. (Original) A control system comprising:

a first device;

a second device; and

an external cover covering an attaching section which is provided in a main unit of the first device to fit the second device to the main unit of the first device,

wherein:

the external cover, when the second device is not fitted to the main unit of the first device, serves a first function as a cover for the attaching section,

the external cover, when the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, serves a second function which is different from the first function while maintaining the first

function, such that the external cover is provided to the first device or the second device in a state different from a state when the second device is not fitted to the main unit of the first device, and

if the external cover does not serve the second function when the second device is fitted to the main unit of the first device, at least the main unit of the first device, of the main unit of the first device and the second device, is caused not to operate.

10. (New) An image forming device comprising an attachment section at which said image forming device is connectable to an auxiliary device, said image forming device including a removable cover attachable to said image forming device in a first manner to cover said attachment section and in a second manner to enable said image forming device and the auxiliary device to function together when the auxiliary device is connected to said image forming device.

11. (New) The image forming device of claim 10 wherein said removable cover is secured to said image forming device at a first location to cover said attachment section and at a second location spaced from said first location to enable said image forming device and the auxiliary device to function together when the auxiliary device is connected to said image forming device.

12. (New) The image forming device of claim 10 wherein said removable cover is secured to said image forming device at a first location in a first orientation to cover said attachment section and in said first location in a second orientation to enable said image forming device and the auxiliary device to function together when the auxiliary device is connected to said image forming device.

13. (New) The image forming device of claim 10 wherein said cover comprises a shock absorbing device adapted to engage an actuator on the auxiliary device when said cover is secured to said image forming device in the second manner.

14. (New) The image forming device of claim 10 wherein said cover comprises a reflective surface.

15. (New) The image forming device of claim 10 wherein said cover comprises a guide member when mounted in the second manner.

16. (New) The image forming device of claim 15 wherein said cover comprises a paper guide when mounted in the second manner.

17. (New) A method of selectively rendering operable an image forming device connected to an auxiliary device comprising the steps of:

providing an image forming device having an attachment section for attachment to an auxiliary device and an enablement section for supporting an element for enabling the joint operation of the image forming device and the auxiliary device;

attaching a removable cover at the attachment section;

providing an auxiliary device attachable to the image forming device;

removing the removable cover;

repositioning the removable cover and reattaching the removable cover at the enablement section;

attaching the auxiliary device to the imaging forming device such that the removable cover enables the joint operation of the image forming device and the auxiliary device.

18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein said step of repositioning the removable cover and reattaching the removable cover at the enablement section comprises the steps of reattaching the removable cover at a location spaced from the attachment section.

19. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein said step of repositioning the removable cover and reattaching the removable cover at the enablement section comprises the steps of reattaching the removable cover at a location at least partially overlying the attachment section.

20. (New) In an image forming device including an attachment section at which an auxiliary device is attachable to the image forming device and a removable cover for covering the attachment section when no auxiliary device is attached to the attachment section, a method of preventing a loss of the removable cover comprising the steps of:

configuring the auxiliary device or the image forming device so as to be inoperable when the auxiliary device is connected to the image forming device unless an enabling device is connected to the image forming device; and

configuring the removable cover as the enabling device.

21. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of configuring the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a shock absorbing element for engaging an actuator on the auxiliary device.

22. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of configuring the removable cover as the enabling device comprises



the step of configuring the removable cover as a reflective surface for reflecting a distance measuring light of the auxiliary device.

23. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of configuring the removable cover as the enabling device comprises the step of configuring the removable cover as a portion of a paper guide path between a paper source in the auxiliary device and a photoconductive drum in the image forming device.